(v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

Cost of escalation of various schemes

749. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether improper implementation of various schemes and programmes has led to both cost escalation and locking of several crores of rupees during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of the total cost escalation of Central sector projects due to delays in implementation of projects during the last five years and the total amount locked due to non implementation of several schemes/programmes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The cost escalation in projects is due to various reasons such as lack of infrastructure facilities, change in scope during implementation, faulty design, high cost of environmental safeguards, high cost of land and rehabilitation, under estimation, exchange rate variation, fund constraints, general price rise, delays in implementation due to inadequate planning, etc. During the last five years *i.e.* April 2003 - March 2008, 471 projects with anticipated completion cost of Rs. 181620 crore were completed. As on March 2008, out of 909 projects costing Rs.20 crores and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 346 projects are running behind schedule with respect to the latest approved schedule. The Cost escalation in 346 delayed projects is Rs.24,689 crores which is 13.33 per cent of the latest approved cost of Rs.1,85,089 crore.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to complete such projects at the earliest *inter-alia* include:

(i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of projects before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.;

(v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

Urban local bodies

750. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank Report released during January, 2008 has revealed that most of the urban local bodies like municipalities are not people-centric in their approach to deliver municipal services and suffer from improper staffing and lack of standardization;

(b) if so, whether Urban Local Bodies require a review especially when massive budgetary allocation under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) would be available; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that JNNURM scheme is fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The World Bank document titled "Synthesis Study of Public Financial Management & Accountability in Urban Local Bodies" released on 15.1.2008 identifies improved financial management & accountability environment as crucial to better urban governance and performance. *Inter-alia*, it recommends revision of existing staffing, practices and building capacity of municipal staff.

(b) and (c) To ensure successful implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a framework for capacity building including setting up of Project Management Units (PMUs) and Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at State and ULB level respectively and training programmes for Urban Local Body (ULB) officials and elected representatives has been put in place.

Assessment of JNNURM

†751. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had implemented Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for the development of urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the cities chosen for implementation of this scheme and when the scheme was started;

(c) whether Government has also made an assessment of the implementation of this scheme till now; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details of the assessment?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.